

December 3, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT-02-55 In the matter of Improving Public Safety Communications in
The 800MH2 Band

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of a "Consensus Plan" that will address radio interference problems that are being experienced by first responders.

I'm sure that the FCC has correspondence describing the Consensus Plan and so I'm not going to try and explain it, But I will tell you what I know. The situation is simple. Commercial utilization of the communications spectrum imperils efficient operations of the 800 MHz band and jeopardizes public safety services.

Proponents of the Consensus Plan are correct in stating that the FCC should provide new bandwidth to separate public safety from commercial users. I don't have the expertise to describe how it should be done. I cannot, from my personal knowledge, recommend the Consensus Plan above all other solutions. However, I do urge you to take whatever steps possible to alleviate the problem. This is a public safety issue of first importance. Let's resolve the matter with foresight and not wait until a tragedy occurs.

As usual, I offer the services of myself and my office in any way that may be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

V.J. Bella
Fire Marshal